

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8 and 9. Claims 1-11 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

In the Office Action of January 5, 2005, the Examiner objected to Claims 1, 8 and 9. Claims 1, 8 and 9 were objected to for failure to use consistent claim terms. The Examiner indicated that prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

The Examiner's indication that the application is in condition for allowance except for the above noted objections is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8 and 9 in the interest of consistency. Specifically, the preamble of Claim 1 has been amended to read -- A floating aluminum box --. The term "the bracing plates" has been amended to "the first plurality of bracing plates and the second plurality of bracing plates" in Claim 8. The term "the inner concentric pipe" has been amended to "the inner pipe" in Claim 9.

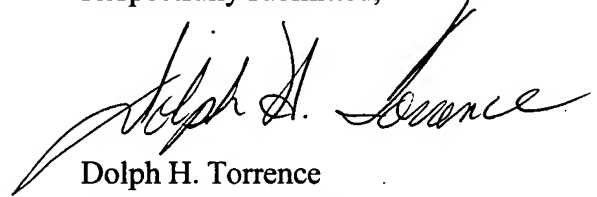
Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made herein properly respond to the outstanding Office Action and represent a *bona fide* effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.. Care has been exercised to ensure that no new matter has been introduced and that no new issues have been raised that would require further consideration or search.

Application No. : 10/849,886
Art Unit : 3617

Attorney Docket No. 24398.00
Confirmation No 8587

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolph H. Torrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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DHT:gwh